THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (h) In pursuance of the decision taken in the 40th Labour Ministers Conference held in New Delhi in February 1992 which, inter alia, considered the report of the Ramanujam Committee on New Industrial Relations Law, a Group consisting of Labour Ministers of U.P., West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the chairmanship of Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister of State for Coal and Labour was constituted on 25th February, 1992 to examine the areas of disagreement in the Ramanujam Committee Recommendations on New Industrial Relations Law with a view to arriving at a consensus and to submit its report for consideration in the Indian Labour Conference. The Group of Ministers met on 25th April, 1st June and 24th July 1992 and discussed various contentious issues. Its recommendation on the contentious issues relating to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 were placed before the JLC held in Sept. 1992. The Conference decided that Govt. may go ahead with the preparation of the Bill for amending the Trade Unions Act and Industrial Disputes Act on the basis of the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and the views expressed by various groups of the organisations. The tentative proposals were discussed with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations and Employers Federation on November 23, 1992. On the basis of these deliberations and also keeping in view the report of the inter ministerial group of Industrial Restructuring specific proposals to amend the I.D. Act and T.U. Act, 1926 have been formulated. There is no proposal to conduct seminar/conference to elicit public opinion on this issue.

Purchase of Coal by Small Industries from Private Dumps

*200. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the coal-using small industries have surrendered their sponsorship programme with Coal India Ltd. and they buy coal from illegal private dumps and move them by road due to their failure to persuade the CIL and Railway Board to weigh coal correctly both at loading and at delivery points; and

(b) if so, whether Government have initiated action to prevent the small industries from buying coal from private illegal dumps.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by coal companies, there have been some cancellations of sponsored programmes for movement of coal by rail. These cancellations have been by both large as well as small consumers, and are being attributed to increased offers and allotments of rakes for movement of coal. The coal companies have recorded an increase of 11.6% in their despatches during the quarter April-June '93 as compared to the same period last year.

Though as per statute, weighment of rail borne coal is the responsibility of the Railways. Coal India Limited have installed weigh-bridges at large number of loading points in order to ensure proper weighment of coal before despatch.

Coal is supplied to actual users against linkages/sponsorships or both. This coal is not available for resale under the provisions of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Sale of coal by private illegal dumps is punishable under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act. Whenever any such instances are brought to the notice of Govt., suitable action is taken according to legal provisions.

In order to further improve the availability, coal is also sold under a Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS). Recently this scheme has been further modified to extend the benefits to a larger cross section of buyers. Interested buyers have been categorised as under:

1. Actual users.
2. Mini Traders.
3. Wholesale Traders.
4. General.

First preference in order booking and despatches under Liberalised Sale Scheme would be given to actual users who can draw coal for their own use in addition to the normal supplies being received by them against sponsorships/linkages.

Raids by BIS

1736. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 14th June, 1993 captioned "BIS gears up surveliance act";

(b) whether the BIS has conducted a drive to check the sale of substandard goods in the country;

(c) if so, the number of raids conducted by BIS during the last six months to unearth the sale of substandard goods; and

(d) what further action has been taken by Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31st March, 1993, 11,726 licences under Certification Mark Scheme were in operation. During the year ending 31st March, 1993, about 45,000 samples were tested in BIS and outside laboratories & as a result 16 licences were cancelled. During the aforesaid period, out of 204 complaints received concerning various BIS certified products, 155 complaints were disposed of.

Action on a number of cases of unauthorised use of ISI mark has been taken by BIS and legal proceedings have been launched in some of them. Out of 12 such cases detected during 1991-92, legal proceedings have been initiated in 11 cases and investigations are in progress in respect of 9 such cases detected during 1992-93.

(c) and (d) During the last six months one raid has been conducted by Delhi Police against the spurious bulb manufacturer, on the basis of information supplied by BIS and with the active involvement of BIS Officers.

Delhi Police is in the process of instituting legal proceedings against the manufacturer.

Amendment to Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986

1737. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating amendments to the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 in view of the policy of liberalisation and multinational consumer companies coming in India;

(b) whether the process of evaluation and re-setting and re-formulation of standards has begun;

(c) if so, what are the details of such process; and

(d) what are the new standards formulated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The process of evaluation (review), amendment and revision of Indian Standards is continuous and on-going, taking into account the national industrial policy and priorities.